



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

May 09, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).

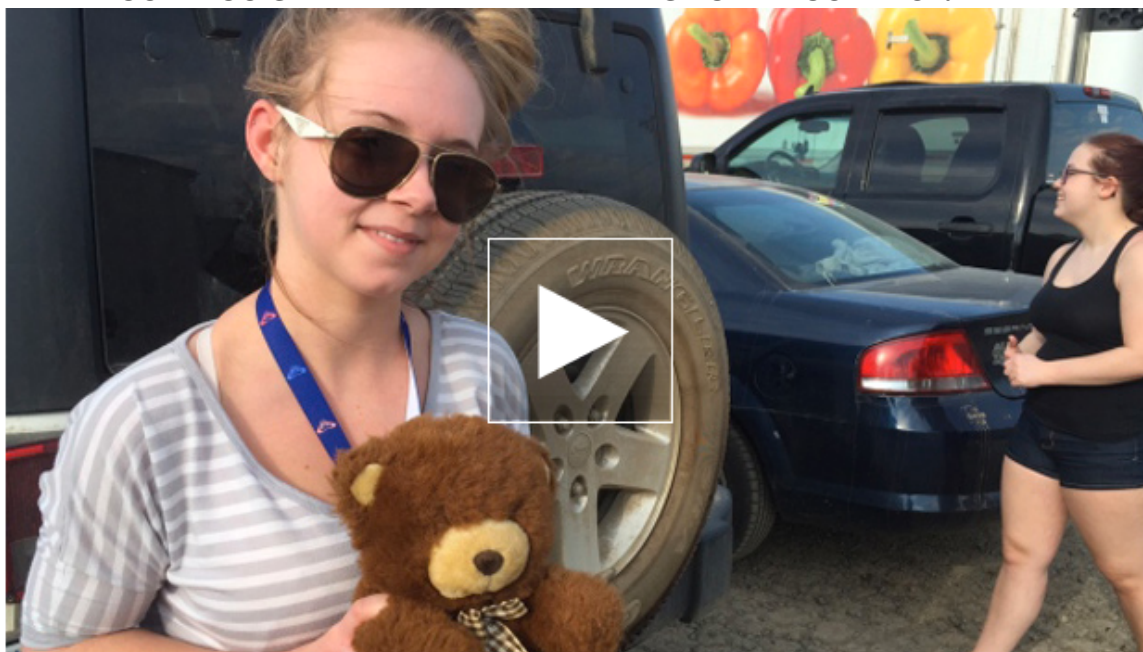


Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plans prepared by Deidre Lake, [Communication4Integration Inc.](#)

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NEWSCAST 1

WHAT WOULD YOU GRAB WITH A FIRE BREATHING DOWN YOUR NECK?



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/fort-mcmurray-prized-possessions-1.3567410>

WARM UP QUESTION

What would you take with you if you only had minutes to decide?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the words below. Match the words or phrases with the correct meaning. The first one is done for you.

ANSWER	WORD/PHRASE	MEANING
G	minutes to decide	A. take or grasp suddenly
	cherished	B. differed
	bolting	C. protected and cared for lovingly
	vital	D. things of most importance
	chance	E. possibility
	what mattered most	F. running away suddenly
	varied	G. to have a short time to make a decision
	medals and ribbons	H. awards for personal accomplishments
	grab	I. equipment
	gear	J. a fireproof box used to store valuable items
	safe	K. essential

(see answer key)

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Fill in the words below with the correct word or phrase above. The first one is done for you.

If you had just *minutes to decide*, what you would take from your home if there was a _____ nothing would be left when you returned?

Would you grab _____ documents, fill a bag with food and water?

Would you take _____ photographs and keepsakes or fill your car with camping _____?

It's a question men, women, and children from Fort McMurray had to answer last week. The choices _____.

Barry Pennell took the _____ that holds essential family documents like mortgages and passports. He wanted to bring items with more sentimental value, but said that with limited time he took _____.

Sabrina Calder made sure to get her cat Sophia and dog Taffy before _____ from Fort McMurray.

Jason Pennell made sure to _____ proof that his recent divorce had been finalized. He was worried about what might happen if it disappeared in the fire.

Marina Calder says her cheerleading _____ were the one thing she couldn't imagine going up in flames. The 17-year old Grade 11 student doesn't know if her school will be there when she returns to Fort McMurray.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 0:10)

Listen to the newscast. While you listen, check your answers above.

CLOSING

Look at the two questions below.

1. Do you have an emergency kit prepared at home?
2. What items do you think are important to have in an emergency kit?








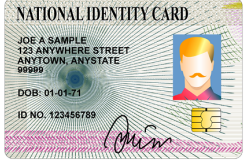




STEP 1: Take 2 minutes to write your ideas below.

STEP 2

If you are in a class, find a partner when the time is up and compare your list to their list. Then look at the “ready-to-go-kit” items recommended in case of an emergency.

If you are working independently, compare your list the “ready-to-go-kit” items recommended in case of an emergency on the following page.

READY-TO-GO KIT

	4 L of water for each person		card with emergency contact information and the number of someone to call who lives out of town
	food that you don't have to keep cold		pet food and supplies for at least three days
	manual can opener		small first aid kit
	plastic/paper plates, cups, knives, forks, spoons		personal ID card
	flashlight and extra batteries		personal hygiene items, soap, hand sanitizer
	change of clothes		Store medicine you usually take near your ready-to-go kit.

NEWSCAST 2

TRUDEAU ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR FORT MCMURRAY



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/fort-mcmurray-federal-response-red-cross-1.3567828>

WARM UP QUESTION

Did you hear about Justin Trudeau's announcement of support for Fort McMurray?

READING ACTIVITY 1

Read the newscast below. Underline any words that you do not understand.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the federal government will **match** individual **donations** made to the Canadian Red Cross to help those **affected** by the **raging** wildfire in Fort McMurray as federal party leaders **rose** in the House of Commons to express their support for Albertans.

Trudeau said, "Today, I am pleased to announce that in addition to the government of Canada providing future assistance... the government will also be matching individual **charitable** donations made to the Canadian Red Cross in support of **disaster relief**".

The continuing disaster forced Alberta to call a state of emergency last week after more than 88,000 people were **forced out** of their homes in and around Fort McMurray, sending **evacuees** to surrounding communities for **shelter**.

Interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose said, "I want to thank again the prime minister and the minister of public safety for making this **issue a priority**, but most of all... on behalf of all of us, [I want] to tell the families, the workers, the first responders and all of the public officials that are **coping with** this **crisis** that we're here for them."

Mulcair said in his own statement, "Our thanks go out, of course, to the firefighters, the pilots, volunteers, emergency service workers, but I would **dare say**... that our **admiration** goes out to the ordinary **folks** that we've seen in these **tragic** events".

"There is something incredibly **reassuring** to see how Canadians respond... stories of neighbours helping neighbours, good **folks** helping good **folks**," he said.

"I think that everyone there deserves our congratulations," Mulcair said.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the words below. Match the words or phrases with the correct meaning. Refer to newscast if needed. The first one is done for you.

ANSWER	WORD/PHRASE	MEANING/SYNONYM
O	match	A. dealing with; managing
	donations	B. a time of intense difficulty or danger; emergency
	affected	C. temporary protection from danger; safety
	raging	D. people
	rose	E. of prime concern; of most importance
	charitable	F. respect; appreciation
	disaster relief	G. humanitarian; assistance of those in need
	forced out	H. stood up
	evacuees	I. I am quite certain
	shelter	J. removed; dislocated; evicted
	issue	K. violent; uncontrollable; fierce
	a priority	L. disastrous
	coping with	M. impacted; influenced
	crisis	N. matter; important topic or problem or discussion
	I dare say	O. give an equal amount
	admiration	P. encouraging; comforting
	folks	Q. contributions; money
	tragic	R. money or services provided to individuals or communities that have experienced losses
	reassuring	S. people evacuated from a place of danger to somewhere safe

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 1:37)

Listen to the newscast. Follow along with the script.

CONCLUSION

After listening to the newscast, click play on the image and watch the video of Trudeau's announcement if you wish.

NEWSCAST 3

FIRED WALMART GREETER, 78, GETS SUPPORT FROM CUSTOMERS



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/fired-walmart-greeter-78-gets-support-from-angry-shoppers-1.3562916>

WARM UP QUESTION

What does get fired mean? What are some reasons a greeter at Walmart may get fired?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 3:41)

Listen to the story. Take notes in the space below. Afterwards, try to explain in your own words what happened.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 3:41)

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, check whether the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

STATEMENT	TRUE	FALSE
A 78 year old greeter was accused of being a “toilet-paper thief”		
Andre Ouimet admitted to taking toilet paper out of the store but says he’s not a thief or liar.		
Andre Ouimet was fired on the same day he took the toilet paper out of the store.		
Andre Ouimet has difficulty breathing and requires an oxygen tank.		
When he realized he left the toilet paper, he informed customer service.		
On his coffee break, he didn’t pay for the toilet paper.		
Ouimet was shocked when he was escorted out of the store.		
Ouimet wasn’t well liked from the people at work.		
He appreciates the support he has received on social media and customers within the community.		
Ouimet believes the company should apologize.		
Ouimet doesn’t want his job back.		
Ouimet is capable of doing many jobs.		
Ouimet was once recognized as “Employee of the Month”		

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3 (Audio Clip 3:41)

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, follow along with the script on page 13. After you listen, recheck your answers above or see answer key.

CONCLUSION

What do you think of this story? Do you think he should have been fired? Why or why not?

COMMON IDIOMS RELATED TO FIRE

Get fired

To be let go/dismissed from your job

Ears must be burning

Something that you say to someone who is being talked about

Playing with fire

Taking (foolish) risks

Burn your bridges

Permanently and unpleasantly end your relationship with a person or an organization;
not be able to return

Burn a hole in your pocket

Money that someone wants to spend quickly

I have money to burn

To have a lot of money to spend

Add fuel to the fire

To do something to make a bad situation worse or an angry person angrier

Jump out of the frying pan and into the fire

To escape from one difficult situation and find yourself in an even more difficult situation

Where there's smoke there's fire

If something seems wrong, something probably is wrong

Get along/on like a house on fire

To have a great relationship with someone and become friends quickly

Like a house on fire

Rapidly and with force

Have too many irons in the fire

To be doing too many things at once

An old flame

A person that you had a romantic relationship with in the past

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of May 9th.	0:00
NEWSCAST 1 Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/fort-mcmurray-prized-possessions-1.3567410	<p>If you had just minutes to decide, what you would take from your home if there was a chance nothing would be left when you returned?</p> <p>Would you grab vital documents, fill a bag with food and water? Would you take cherished photographs and keepsakes or fill your car with camping gear?</p> <p>It's a question men, women, and children from Fort McMurray had to answer last week. The choices varied.</p> <p>Barry Pennell took the safe that holds essential family documents like mortgages and passports. He wanted to bring items with more sentimental value, but said that with limited time he took what mattered most.</p> <p>Sabrina Calder made sure to get her cat Sophia and dog Taffy before bolting from Fort McMurray.</p> <p>Jason Pennell made sure to grab proof that his recent divorce had been finalized. He was worried about what might happen if it disappeared in the fire.</p> <p>Marina Calder says her cheerleading medals and ribbons were the one thing she couldn't imagine going up in flames. The 17-year old Grade 11 student doesn't know if her school will be there when she returns to Fort McMurray.</p>	0:10

<p>NEWSCAST 2</p> <p>Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/fort-mcmurray-federal-response-red-cross-1.3567828</p>	<p>Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the federal government will match individual donations made to the Canadian Red Cross to help those affected by the raging wildfire in Fort McMurray as federal party leaders rose in the House of Commons to express their support for Albertans.</p> <p>Trudeau said, "Today, I am pleased to announce that in addition to the government of Canada providing future assistance... the government will also be matching individual charitable donations made to the Canadian Red Cross in support of disaster relief".</p> <p>The continuing disaster forced Alberta to call a state of emergency last week after more than 88,000 people were forced out of their homes in and around Fort McMurray, sending evacuees to surrounding communities for shelter.</p> <p>Interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose said, "I want to thank again the prime minister and the minister of public safety for making this issue a priority, but most of all... on behalf of all of us, [I want] to tell the families, the workers, the first responders and all of the public officials that are coping with this crisis that we're here for them."</p> <p>Mulcair said in his own statement, "Our thanks go out, of course, to the firefighters, the pilots, volunteers, emergency service workers, but I would dare say... that our admiration goes out to the ordinary folks that we've seen in these tragic events".</p> <p>"There is something incredibly reassuring to see how Canadians respond... stories of neighbours helping neighbours, good folks helping good folks," he said.</p> <p>"I think that everyone there deserves our congratulations," Mulcair said.</p>	<p>1:37</p>
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<p>NEWSCAST 3</p> <p>Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/fired-walmart-greeter-78-gets-support-from-angry-shoppers-1.3562916</p>	<p>An increasing number of customers say they will no longer shop at Walmart Canada after a 78-year old greeter was fired following accusations he was a "toilet-paper thief." Andre Ouimet said he was escorted out of the Leduc store after being called a thief and a liar in a meeting with management.</p> <p>"But I'm not a thief, and I'm not a liar," said Ouimet. He admits he took unpaid toilet paper out of the store, but says it was an accident.</p> <p>Six days before he was fired, Ouimet said he rushed to his van in a panic because his oxygen tank was nearly empty and he was having trouble breathing. Over the course of a shift, Ouimet said he needs to change his tank up to eight times.</p> <p>At his van, Ouimet realized he had left the store with a package of toilet paper in his scooter, which he intended to buy. He said he put the toilet paper in his van in order to change his oxygen tank.</p> <p>But when he returned to the store, Ouimet said he realized he had forgotten to take the toilet paper with him.</p> <p>Ouimet said he immediately informed customer service and promised to pay for the merchandise on his coffee break, which he did. He said no one appeared to have a problem with it.</p> <p>So he was shocked when he was fired a week later. "I'm very, very disappointed," said Ouimet. "I did a good job. And I know I did a good job. I was very well-liked from the people at work."</p> <p>While the outpouring of support on social media makes him feel good, Ouimet said he wants an apology from the company. He also wants his job back.</p> <p>"I cannot do any other job because I've got to have those tanks with me all the time," said Ouimet, adding he was once recognized as Employee of the Month.</p>	<p>3:41</p>
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ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1

WHAT WOULD YOU GRAB WITH A FIRE BREATHING DOWN YOUR NECK?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

ANSWER	WORD/PHRASE	MEANING
G	minutes to decide	A. take or grasp suddenly
C	cherished	B. differed
F	bolting	C. protected and cared for lovingly
K	vital	D. things of most importance
E	chance	E. possibility
D	what mattered most	F. running away suddenly
B	varied	G. to have a short time to make a decision
H	medals and ribbons	H. awards for personal accomplishments
A	grab	I. equipment
I	gear	J. a fireproof box used to store valuable items
J	safe	K. essential

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

If you had just *minutes to decide*, what you would take from your home if there was a *chance* nothing would be left when you returned?

Would you grab *vital* documents, fill a bag with food and water? Would you take *cherished* photographs and keepsakes or fill your car with camping *gear*?

It's a question men, women, and children from Fort McMurray had to answer last week. The choices *varied*.

Barry Pennell took the *safe* that holds essential family documents like mortgages and passports. He wanted to bring items with more sentimental value, but said that with limited time he took *what mattered most*.

Sabrina Calder made sure to get her cat Sophia and dog Taffy before *bolting* from Fort McMurray.

Jason Pennell made sure to *grab* proof that his recent divorce had been finalized. He was worried about what might happen if it disappeared in the fire.

Marina Calder says her cheerleading *medals and ribbons* were the one thing she couldn't imagine going up in flames. The 17-year old Grade 11 student doesn't know if her school will be there when she returns to Fort McMurray.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2
TRUDEAU ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR FORT MCMURRAY

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

ANSWER	WORD/PHRASE	MEANING/SYNONYM
O	match	A. dealing with; managing
Q	donations	B. a time of intense difficulty or danger; emergency
M	affected	C. temporary protection from danger; safety
K	raging	D. people
H	rose	E. of prime concern; of most importance
G	charitable	F. respect; appreciation
R	disaster relief	G. humanitarian; assistance of those in need
J	forced out	H. stood up
S	evacuees	I. I am quite certain
C	shelter	J. removed; dislocated; evicted
N	issue	K. violent; uncontrollable; fierce
E	a priority	L. disastrous
A	coping with	M. impacted; influenced
B	crisis	N. matter; important topic or problem or discussion
I	I dare say	O. give an equal amount
F	admiration	P. encouraging; comforting
D	folks	Q. contributions; money
L	tragic	R. money or services provided to individuals or communities that have experienced losses
P	reassuring	S. people evacuated from a place of danger to somewhere safe

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3
FIRED WALMART GREETER, 78, GETS SUPPORT FROM CUSTOMERS

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 3:41)

STATEMENT	TRUE	FALSE
A 78 year old greeter was accused of being a “toilet-paper thief”	True	
Andre Ouimet admitted to taking toilet paper out of the store but says he’s not a thief or liar.	True	
Andre Ouimet was fired on the same day he took the toilet paper out of the store.		False
Andre Ouimet has difficulty breathing and requires an oxygen tank.	True	
When he realized he left the toilet paper, he informed customer service.	True	
On his coffee break, he didn’t pay for the toilet paper.		False
Ouimet was shocked when he was escorted out of the store.	True	
Ouimet wasn’t well liked from the people at work.		False
He appreciates the support he has received on social media and customers within the community.	True	
Ouimet believes the company should apologize.	True	
Ouimet doesn’t want his job back.		False
Ouimet is capable of doing many jobs.		False
Ouimet was once recognized as “Employee of the Month”	True	

Thank you for using Learning English with CBC. If you have any questions or comments, please email Deidre Lake at info@communication4integration.ca